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(MIDEAST)

THE UNITED STATES WAS REPORTED TODAY TO BE PREPARING TO RENEW ITS EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT AN INTERIM SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS BASED ON THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

YITZHAK RABIN, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED TODAY IN TEL AVIV THAT THE UNITED STATES AGREES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO A FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORY AS A CONDITION TO A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT.

RABIN'S STATEMENT IN THE NEWSPAPER MA'ARIV COINCIDED WITH A REPORT IN THE PARIS NEWSPAPER LE FIGARO THAT WHITE HOUSE AIDE HENRY A. KISSINGER HAS DRAFTED A PEACE PLAN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON WILL LAUNCH EARLY NEXT YEAR. IT WAS BASED IN PART ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CANAL.

"AS IT APPEARS IN WRITING IN THE PROTOCOL REACHED BY (ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE JOSEPH) SISCO AND MYSELF, THE AMERICAN POSITION IS AGAINST ACCEPTING THE EGYPTIAN DEMAND FOR AN ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO A GENERAL WITHDRAWAL AS A CONDITION TO OR AS PART OF A PARTIAL ARRANGMENT," RABIN SAID.

HE SAID THE DOCUMENT WAS DRAFTED AFTER TALKS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR AND PRESIDENT NIXON IN DECEMBER, 1971.

SINCE THEN, HE ADDED, WASHINGTON HAS SHOWN NO CHANGE IN ITS POSITION.

THE FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, WHO ENDS HIS FIVE-YEAR TOUR IN WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH, SAID THE AGREEMENT COVERED THE CONDITIONS, FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE OF ANY U.S.-SPONSORED "PROXIMITY TALKS" WITH EGYPT ON REOPENING THE CANAL.

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*These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the
Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news*